

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 070302

FOLLOWING REPLIES ARE KEYED TO SIMILARLY DESIGNATED PARAS OF
REFTEL:

I. YOUTH CATEGORIES

A. YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (INCLUDING POLITICALLY ACTIVE CATHOLIC
AND STUDENT LEADERS), 30; NON- POLITICAL STUDENTS IN SELECTED FIELDS,
30; YOUNG LABOR LEADERS, 15; YOUTH IN MEDIA, 15; YOUTH IN BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY, 10.

B. POLITICALLY ACTIVE YOUTH, WHO COME FROM VARIOUS YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS DEPENDING ON PARTY, AND YOUTH IN LABOR ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND THE MEDIA ARE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT FOR US
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN BELGIUM. TO A MUCH GREATER
DEGREE THAN YOUNG BUSINESSMEN WHO BY NATURE OF THEIR WORK,
AFFLUENCE, AND PHILOSOPHIC BENT ARE USUALLY MORE APT TO HAVE
INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS) THEY LACK OPPORTUNITY OR MEANS FOR
ESTABLISHING PERSONAL CONTACTS OR ASSOCIATIONS WITH AMERICANS
AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT POLITICALLY
ACTIVE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR GENERAL CULTURAL
RELATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL CROSS FERTILIZATION BUT BECAUSE
THEY INCLUDE FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS AND LEADERS IN OTHER FIELDS
WHO WILL HELP SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY IN BELGIUM. IN OTHER CATEGORIES
OF YOUTH LISTED IN REFTEL, YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT FORM READILY
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IDENTIFIABLE GROUPS WITH WHICH TO TREAT AS SUCH.

C. THE GENERATION SHIFT, WHICH IS ACCELERATING IN MANY SECTORS OF BELGIAN SOCIETY, WILL PLACE YOUNG POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS IN MORE AND MORE POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AND THEIR VIEWS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON BELGIAN EXTERNAL SECURITY AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC POLICY, INCLUDING ATTITUDE TOWARD US INVESTMENTS AND TRADE. ATTITUDES OF BELGIAN YOUTH, AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING IN THE MEDIA, ARE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN THOSE OF THEIR ELDERS ON ALL THESE MATTERS.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. ENCOURAGING PRAGMATIC, NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, 50; DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS 10; FAVORABLE ATTITUDES, UNDERSTANDING US GOALS AND POLICIES, ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC US INTEREST, CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO US TRADE AND INVESTMENT, 10 EACH.

B. INFORMATION, NOT PROSELYTIZING, IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF CONTACT WITH AND PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IF OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE PRAGMATISM AND NOT SIMPLY TO REPLACE ONE "ISM" WITH ANOTHER.

III. RESOURCES

A. PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS ASSIGNED TO APPLICABLE RESOURCES AS FOLLOWS: CU INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TRAVEL GRANTS, 15 PERCENT; CU EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS, 20 PERCENT; CU FULL- YEAR ACADEMIC GRANTS TO FOREIGN STUDENTS, 10 PERCENT; AMERICAN PROFESSORS (LECTURING), 10 PERCENT; SHORT TEAM AMERICAN GRANTEES, 10 PERCENT; AND USIA CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING (OTHER THAN EXCHANGES) 35 PERCENT.

1. WE RECOMMEND THAT MORE MONEY BE ALLOCATED FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE. THIS WOULD PERMIT REESTABLISHING A LARGZR PROPORTION OF FULL- YEAR EDUCATION GRANTS. ON THE USIS SIDE, ASSIGNMENT OF A FOURTH OFFICER (YOUNG) WOULD PERMIT MORE EFFECTIVE CONCENTRATION ON STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.

2. IN THE PRIVATE RESOURCE FIELD, THE EMBASSY IS MAKING A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPAND IN THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AREA -- FOR EXAMPLE SUCH EFFORTS AS THE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY THE HARVARD CLUB AND THE MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST, ETC.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

A. MEDIUM

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B. BELGIAN YOUTH ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL COMMUNITY PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE LINGUISTIC SITUATION. THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE STATE SUBSIDIZED AND THEY ARE OTHERWISE

FAVORED BY THE STATE BUT ARE MORE TOLERATED THAN LISTENED TO.
HENCE THERE IS LITTLE CAREERISM IN YOUTH AFFAIRS; BELGIAN YOUTH
ARE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE THE MATURITY OF YEARS BEFORE THEY
ASSUME REALLY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. YOUTH ARE THUS
GRADUALLY INTEGRATED AND ABSORBED INTO BELGIAN SOCIETY. OUR
INTERESTS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE SERVED BY ENHANCING STATURE
OF YOUTH GROUPS OR THEIR LEADERS THROUGH EXCESSIVE AND PUBLICIZED
EMBASSY EFFORTS TO CULTIVATE THEM.

C. 1(A). 10 PERCENT AVERAGE FOR OFFICERS INVOLVED, THREE MAN
MONTHS PER YEAR.

C. 1(B). CONTACT WORK, 80; REPORTING, 5; PROGRAM WORK, 15.

C. 1(C). STATE 60; USIS, 40 D

C. 2. WE RECOMMEND APPLICATION OF THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGE OF
AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO YOUTH AND POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP PURPOSES:

70 PERCENT OF CU BUDGET

50 PERCENT OF USIA BUDGET

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